

**CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON**

**Art Commission  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** September 27, 2011

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Arts Commission Members Present:**

☒ Shelley Brittingham  
☒ Donna DiFiore  
☒ Andrea Reay  
☒ Robbie Howell

☒ Shelli Park  
☒ Michael O'Neill  
☒ Chloe Bjordahl  
☒ Debbie Thoma

☒ Virginia Wright

**Staff Present:**

Debbie Zemke, Recreation Manager

**Guests:**

Maureen Hoffmann, Resident

**Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Chair Virginia Wright. The August 23 minutes were approved.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION: 2012 Arts and Culture Grants** -Shelley Brittingham

Shelley summarized the panel's recommendations from their September 15 meeting and distributed a document listing the proposed allocations. She also provided related information, noting that there was:

- A total of \$53,110 in requests with \$25,000 to allocate.
- Two new applicants who submitted proposals.
- An agreement to have grant recipients provide 1 ticket (for paid performances) so that a Commissioner could attend and complete an evaluation. The need for Commissioners to directly observe and understand what the City is funding was acknowledged.
- Agreement that current Arts and Culture Fund application priorities and criteria be revisited and updated as part of the Commission's 2012 work plan.

Donna also commended the review effort, recognizing that recommendations ended up preserving 2011 funding allocation levels for five organizations as well as providing some funding to the new applicants.

After additional discussion, Robbie made a motion to accept the panel's recommendations. Donna seconded. Motion passed.

### **Effective Communications for Arts Commissioners**

Virginia mentioned some possibilities to help the Commissioners deal with the volume of communications, especially e-mail. More information is forthcoming.

### **AREAS OF FOCUS REPORTS**

#### **Arts Education** –Shelli Park/Debbie Thoma

Debbie met with Stefan Nelson, Cultural Arts Supervisor for the Highline School District. Gina will be coordinating a meeting between Shelli, Debbie and Stefan so that the Arts Commission can learn what arts education needs are most significant to the District and how we can help.

#### **Public Art**-Andrea Reay

Andrea reported that the Dollar Store is receptive to the installation of a mural on their store's wall that faces 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW. The actual Dollar Store business is a tenant. The property owner has given tentative approval, as long as they can be involved in mural design and graffiti will be controlled. Andrea emphasized that community involvement and participation will be a key component of this project, which is planned for spring, 2012.

#### **Arts and Economic Development**—Donna DiFiore

Donna attended the new 153<sup>rd</sup> Street stakeholders meeting at City Hall that was convened by Dick Loman, Economic Development Manager. A consultant has been hired to work with the business owners and other community stakeholders to brainstorm ideas for enhancing the streetscape.

Public art was identified as having a strong potential to provide some visual unity on the street. Donna reported that the businesses attending the meeting had a very positive response to having public art. There are approximately 95 businesses on 153<sup>rd</sup>. These businesses suggested that the art banners be relocated to a street to where they could be noticed more, since their size is too small considering the street's scale. 153<sup>rd</sup> St. is a very different street than 152<sup>nd</sup> St. because it's much wider and doesn't have that intimate feel. Kinetic art on the lights poles might be a good option to consider.

Donna also informed the Commission that she'll no longer be able to lead this committee. Virginia said that another Commissioner will be able to assume these duties.

#### **Arts and Culture HUB**—Virginia Wright

- A meeting is proposed for October 11th; Virginia is hoping to get more groups on board after they see the opportunities available. NWAA & Burien Arts are on board. Highline Historical Society doesn't feel a need to participate. Heritage news, however, will still be included.
- The Facebook page is up but not live. Twitter feed is already launched. A website is also being designed.
- Need 25 groups to sign up for it. Virginia is gathering names for a mailing list.
- Virginia's asking the arts groups to fund it as a marketing piece for their organization. Cost would be \$250 a year. Virginia said "We haven't done a full court press yet. It'll take quite a bit for me to accept for that the groups will say "no".

- Artists, arts-related businesses, arts activities that happen INSIDE of local businesses will also be encouraged to participate.

#### **LAA—Shelli Park/Virginia Wright**

The meeting was held at the new Shoreline City Hall and Shelli commented that there is an “unbelievable amount of public art in the facility, including galleries on all of the floors.” The Shoreline/Lake Forest Park Arts Council is a non-profit that also receives funding from the cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. The Arts Council has a permanent collection that’s available to be moved to different portable locations, which is something Burien might wish to consider in the future.

There was a discussion by 4 Culture as to whether the current system of funding all local arts agencies with sustained support should continue. Currently they’re funding 260 different agencies. Most likely, budgeted funds will still be allocated, but the amount per LAA won’t go up and could go down. Emphasis will be on quality not quantity. There’s a continued emphasis on collaborations and partnerships, in addition to the need to bring in new demographics and audiences. It was acknowledged that most groups have space and sustainability challenges and 4 Culture is interested in assisting. Innovation in programming will always be supported (i.e., having concerts in a car parking lot to connect with different audiences, etc.)

Pulling in the Digital Arts is an obvious step forward. Redmond already is doing a Digital Arts festival. Andrea shared information about the amazing MIT Media Lab that was set up in a location for immediate participation. Something like this would be a perfect fit for Storefront Art. Scott Schaeffer’s new project is an example on how these efforts can work at the local community level.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

Everyone commended the fantastic Arts-A-Glow event along with the event coordination skills of Arts Supervisor Gina Kallman. The event was so diverse and incredibly organized that those who attended felt that “we were so proud of Burien.” Gina will schedule a debriefing meeting soon. Chloe and Andrea also have feedback to share on the Procession.

Debbie Zemke reported that New Start High School approached the City about collaboration for an outdoor music area. Gina will be meeting with New Start and Puget Sound Skills Center staff to explore possibilities. Debbie encouraged those interested to contact Gina.

#### **OTHER**

Virginia recently attended a Burien Arts networking meeting. Burien Arts Board President Linda Dougherty shared some special event banner/sign application and permit information from the city. Although rules are strict, it appears that enforcement is sketchy and more reactive to citizen complaints.

The Hi Liners “Chicago” production had significantly less ticket sales than anticipated. Some Commissioners wondered if this play might not be the best match for a children’s’ performance. However, it was clarified that most of the cast were either high school or college students.

Robbie Howell is now a member of the Washington State Arts Alliance. Chloe Bjordahl will coordinate volunteers for the upcoming 20/20 event.

Michael made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Virginia seconded. Meeting adjourned.